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LETTER

TO

Dr. Oliver,

Desiring Him to Reconcile some few

OF THE

Contradictory ASSERTIONS

IN HIS

ESSAY on FEAVERS, &c.

Met with your Book *accidentally* as I was in a Water-Course, and being very Idle, as you may reasonably believe by my *Reading* it; I was so surpriz'd with that *unaccountable* mixture of *Vanity* and *Ignorance*, that I cannot avoid laying a little of it open to

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your

your view, and by way of Query, to save my self a great deal of Trouble, more than I can bestow upon so Dirty a Work,

pag. 7. You say indeed, and very well, that you do not assume to your self the Name of an Author of any new Discoveries in Feavers; nay it is the only Thing you have prov'd in your whole Book; but your Main Business is to set out as Knight Errant for the Antients, and yet that is only in one Instance, except you take the Quarrel between You and Dr. Ratcliff to be another; and in that Engagement too; you are an Antient; so that the great Design makes the Smaller part of the Book; and that every thing may be wrong, your Charge is against the Man who does the Antients the greatest Justice of any Modern: If you had but instanc'd in your Learned Friend Dr. Cole, it had serv'd your purpose much better; for he's a declared Enemy of them, especially of your pretended Master Hippocrates. But the repeating the Heads of those monstrous Absurdities, is almost enough to secure you from having but One Question propos'd to One of your Capacity, howsoever

Query I.

pag. 9. Why the Hot Regimen rejected altogether, in the Title Page, becomes useful at all in N^o's in your Book.

Query II.

Supposing there be but Two sorts of Continual Feavers, as you seem to hint in the mentioned Page. Give me leave to ask whether a Pestilential Feaver is altogether different from your other, and that according to the Antients. If it is not, why may not this Continual Fever have

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have something in its Practice common with that Pestilential Feaver, as well as it has in its Nature? And if that must be so, and this Pestilential Feaver agreeing well with the Hot Regimen, as you grant in your Book; then likewise must this Continual Feaver some time be Cur'd by the Hot Regimen, according to your own Argument: and this a Man may call a Contradictory Assertion in your Book.

By-the-by, what do you mean by *Curing Feavers* by the *First Intention*? N^o 2.

Pag. 7.

Query III.

Why do you Murder your Quotations in making them *English*, as if you had never gone to School, viz. That of *Sanctorius Spatio unius Noctis, &c.* He says, that in One Night we make Sixteen Ounces of Water, or thereabouts, Four of Concocted Stools; and that we waſt Forty Ounces by insensible Perspiration. But say you, one time with another we Evacuate by Perspiration in One Night as much as we do by both Stool and Urine.

Pag. 50.

Now by Stool and Urine we did Evacuate 20 Ounces, and by Transpiration 40. Query, Are Twenty of any things, viz. Pound, Men or Horses, as many as 40? If they are not, then you are an accurate Translator, and a most proper judge of Mathematicks, tho' you do not know if Four Rounds of all your Toes, or Two of them, are the greatest Number; you do well not to set up for the nicety of *Bellini* and *Pitcairn*, but then you ought not to condemn in them that which you do not understand.

Pag. 51.

By what Liberty of expounding do you *English Plus minusve*, one time with another?

Query IV.

Since the great Fault of the Hot Regimen, as you call it, is that it causes Perspirations, yet in your *N. B.* there are Perspirations *Men in Health have.* Query, Why

Pag. 56.

do you complain of that Hot Regimen in so general Terms, and yet find some Perspirations useful, without either showing the difference, or proving that this Regimen makes the wrong Perspirations? *Query 2.* What kind of Perspirations are made by the Putrefaction of Humours?

Query V.

Part 2. You say from *Hippocrates*, that the Cause of Feavers
pag. 123. is from the Air. Then, that *Galen* is of Opinion that
pag. 129. the Essence of Feavers is from a Preternatural Heat, that a Corruption or Putrefaction is occasion'd by Obstructions in the Pores of our Bodies (as you please to speak) hindering thereby Transpiration. Hence comes
pag. 130. so great a Plenitude in the Vessels, Putrefaction, Heat and Fever.

These Two Opinions you make agree, by joyning the remote and more immediate Causes, which may not be amiss, though half that Liberty by and by would have spoilt your Argument; and still you are forc'd to cement your Opinions by supposing *learnedly*, that it is
pag. 135. some *Ill quality* in the Air that does it. These Opinions thus wrought up by your self, you say is the true Theory of the Antients, and to this you subscribe. 'Tis this that the Moderns would overthrow, but especially that Mad Enthusiast *Bellini*, though you have the Ill luck to prove the quite contrary Matter, according to Custom.

pag. 171. *Bellini*, as quoted by your self, says, that all Feavers are occasion'd by Obstructions in the Capillary Blood Vessels, these increasing the quantity of Blood, cause its Motion to be quicker and stronger. *Query*, Where the difference is between Feavers being made by Obstructions asserted by the Antients, and when asserted by *Bellini*, where the difference lies between their *Plenitude*, and his greater *Quantity*; and lastly how their Effect of greater Heat, and

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and his of greater Velocity, both Qualities proper to Fevers, to differ; especially when he has demonstrated in another place, or at least, you see it is his Opinion, that Heat is proportionable to the Motion of the Blood. You see then, that Hippocrates and Galen Agree by your help, and you with them, and Bellini with all Three; Now, for you to agree with them, and differ from Bellini, who likewise agrees with them, is an Art I grant you, very peculiar to you and your Friends. I am apt to think your want of Latin might occasion this way of Arguing in a great Measure.

Query VI.

How *Tutissimum Tempus* comes to be English'd the Only Time, I Affirm you ought not to Bleed in Fevers till they begin to decline. One that had ever gone to School would think that he said that it is the safest to Bleed in their declining, or Declination, ('tis a Word of Art) not when they begin to decline: And if you think this so *Enthusiastical*, pray shew the Falseness of his Demonstration, and do not Laugh at it. He told you of other Times for Bleeding; but here, this is the safest; because not incumber'd with all the Accidents he mentions in his Demonstration. You have good Reason not to be Vain upon the Account of your Discoveries, but then a little Prudence or even Craft, would do well to hide your Ignorance.

Query VII.

By the Preternatural, Intestine Motion of the Blood, Effervescence or Heat, Secretion is interrupted, as you say. Query. How the same Causes come to make the Secretion too Much, in another part of your Book, and that in the same Disease? Are not Most and Least Opposites,

sities, and the asserting them both to be produc'd by the same Cause, and in the same Case, a Contradiction?

Query VIII.

In your Treatise of the *Small-Pox* and *Measles*, you do not say any thing about the *Measles*. Query. Are the *Small-Pox* and *Measles* the same Disease? Query 2d. What Discoveries have you made about them? Have the Moderns degenerated from the Antients in their Practice and Theory? Query 3d. In what does your Tripartit Division differ from the Two Sorts of Dr. Sydenham's? And why did not you mention the *Chicken-Pox* in this Accurate Sorting of this Distemper? Query 4th. Is it enough for a good Physician to know the Species of Distempers? If it is not, Why did not you compleat your Treatise, especially since the Antients had no occasion for your Service of Knight Errantry, neither had you the Character of your Learned Friend *Sancha Panca* to Establish.

Query IX.

Whether a Man who is to Account for the Medicinal Use and Operation of *Bath Waters*, should not have Regard to their Composition? And how you come to Neglect it? If the Design was to prove you a better *Bath Doctor* than Dr. Ratcliff, you have mist of your Aim.

Query X.

Dr. Ratcliff did Assert, and that *ante manum*, that these *Waters* are not so good when Drank Twenty Foot from the *Pump*, as when They are Drank at it; and that for their

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sinking an Inch under the Cork. *Query.* Whether that may not be? And if it may, there was no Necessity to Recur to its Condensing by Cold; tho' that may be a Cause, yet his may be the true One; and you should have prov'd that it was not, before you demand a Triumph. *Query 2d.* Why all this may not be done *ante manum*, and without *Inspiration*, upon the Relation of Able Authors that have Practis'd at the *Bath* for many Years, and that have made Experiments on these Waters. *Query 3.* Whether his Knowledge thus Acquir'd, might not be better than yours, that Contradicted his Authors, tho' you have been at *Bath* several Years, and he Asserted this *ante manum*, and at his first going to *Bath*?

Query XI.

Why did not you Answer Dr. *Ratcliff's* Useful and Necessary Question about a greater Secretion in Time of Bathing? Why in this Answer, after recollecting, you say there is not any Secretion, according to *Blondel*; and that you second this Assertion by the Authority of *Sanctorius*, who proves that the Secretion at that Time, is *Greater than Ordinary*? This will be as hard to Reconcile, as it was for your *Learned Friend* Dr. *Cole* to find how a Man *always* got a *Stomach* by *Exercise*; and the Objection, I think, of the Bishop of *Rochester* losing his *Appetite* by it, in his *Learned Book* of *Insensible Perspiration*. But you are Men of the same Make.

Query XII.

How come you to alledge *Bellini's* Authority for this your Assertion? He is a Mad Man, and how comes his Name to be of Weight to Prove an Argument for you? But,

pag. 144. But, as it happens, he *Concludes* quite *Contrary* to your
De Urinis, Assertion; but that's all one with you.
 &c.

Query XIII.

Why Dr. C ——— had not good Reason to Defend his
 pag. 108. Abilities in Physick, like a Physician? And how you come
 to Abuse Dr. Rateliff, only because he got more Money
 at *Bath* than you, and that against your profest Principle
 pag. 107. before? *Pudet hæc Opprobria.*

*You ought to be Thankful that I give
 you no farther Trouble; but more,
 that I put this Opportunity into your
 Hands to show your Parts.*

Tunbridge,
 July 25. 1704.

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